UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension

AG Newsline

AG-BUSINESS, AGRONOMY, HORTICULTURE,
LIVESTOCK AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
FOR WEST-CENTRAL MISSOURI

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Wild garlic
an increasing problem

Although wild garlic infestations in wheat have not become serious in most area fields, some fields will require treatment.

Wild garlic is a problem mainly because of the possibility of dockage in wheat. Dockage can be one cent per each bulblet found, when there is over two per bushel. If the wheat is going to a flour mill, they will not accept any garlic, so the wheat may be rejected.

It is difficult to see the wild garlic in a stand of wheat. Infestations tend to be spotty and non-uniform in a field. Wild garlic is closely related to star-of-Bethlehem and wild onion. Star-of-Bethlehem has flat leaves, a white mid-rib and no "onion" smell. Wild onion has flat leaves while wild garlic has round, hollow leaves. Wild garlic reproduces by underground bulbs and through aerial bulblets. Tillage may prevent the production of aerial bulblets, but may help to distribute the underground bulbs throughout the field. Many of the bulbs will sprout in the fall but some bulbs may remain dormant for up to six years, making long-term control necessary.

Chemical control can take place in the wheat crop or in a burndown herbicide application. Always check the label for current rates and restrictions. 2,4-D can be applied to wheat after full tillering but before jointing. This will not kill the wild garlic but will suppress bulblet production; however, it may also cause some wheat injury.

Harmony Extra is labeled for wheat from the 2-leaf stage up to before the flag leaf is visible. Since the herbicide is mainly taken up by the foliage, adequate spray volume and use of surfactant is important. Garlic should be actively growing. Check the planting restrictions for harvest and following crops.

Harmony GT received a supplemental label for burndown applications prior to planting corn or soybeans. It can be tank mixed with other appropriate herbicides, such as glyphosate. When tank-mixed with products such as this, it will assist in the control of weeds that are tougher to kill, including wild garlic, dock, and others.

For additional images, see:
www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed_id/allvi.htm

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IN THIS *Issue*

FEEDING HIGH MOISTURE

By-products

I can get wet distiller's grain, wet corn gluten feed or wet brewer's grains cheap. Should I be using them?

Maybe, maybe not.
This is a pretty typical question that comes up when feed resources are scarce due to drought and producers are scrambling for an economical way to feed cattle. Wet feeds can be used successfully in beef operations, but we need to have a good understanding of dry matter and how to calculate costs. Nutritionists use dry matter values for calculating nutrient content of most feeds. In other words, they work with what is left after the moisture has been removed. If a particular feed is quoted as 30% dry matter, then it is 70% water.

But doesn't the water portion of the feed also contain dissolved nutrients that contribute to animal nutrition?

The easy answer is yes, but the corresponding question is: where did the dissolved nutrients in the moisture come from? They came from the 30% dry matter portion. A simple analogy is to look at a cup of coffee with one teaspoon of sugar dissolved in it. The sugar is distributed throughout the entire cup, but if you boil off the water there is still only one spoonful of sugar. The same can be said of high moisture feeds. If you remove the water, the nutrients become more and more concentrated. Looking at nutrients on a dry matter basis is the only legitimate way to compare feedstuffs.

I've been told that cattle will eat high moisture feedstuffs better than they will the dried version. If they like it better, isn't that a sign it's good feed?

Maybe, maybe not.
Cattle will typically eat to satisfy a dry matter requirement. Suppose a cow needs 30 pounds of dry matter per day and the choices are a 30% dry matter feed (high moisture) and a more typical 90% dry matter feed. The cow would meet her dry matter requirement by eating 33 lbs of the dry feed, but would have to consume 100 lbs of the wet feed to get the same pounds of dry matter. In this example, the cow would have to consume three times as much of the wet product just to be equal on a dry basis with typical dry feeds. It is possible for the cow to eat twice as many pounds of the wet feed (as fed) than the dry and actually be taking in fewer nutrients than with dry feeds.

The low quoted price for the wet grains still looks attractive. Couldn't I lower my feed bill by including some of the wet products?

Maybe, Maybe not.
We have to price the ingredients on a dry basis just like we have to compare nutrients on a dry basis. Suppose one ton of the wet grain product is 30% dry matter and priced at $30 per ton. The ton of feed would actually contain only 600 lbs of dry material (2000 x .30). The $30 is only buying 600 lbs of dry material. The price per pound of dry material is now 5 cents (or $100 per ton). To compare that with a dried version of the feed at 90% dry matter, the dry feed would have 1800 lbs of dry material per ton (2000 x .90). Priced at an equivalent level of 5 cents per dry pound the dry feed would cost $90 per ton (1800 x 5 cents). In other words the wet feed at $30 per ton is the same exact price as a dry version at $90 per ton.

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WINTER DAMAGE TO Trees

Generally, there are three types of winter damage to trees. They are desiccation, freezing, and breakage.

Desiccation, or drying out, can be more damaging to evergreens such as pine, spruce, hemlock, yew, arborvitae and juniper, and less to deciduous trees such as oak, maple, apple, peaches, etc. Evergreen leaves continue to transpire in the winter, though at a lesser rate than in the summer. Winter winds can increase the rate of transpiration, causing the plant to dry out, particularly if the ground is frozen and the plants cannot take up more water. Desiccation could result in discolored or burned foliage or even plant death.

Some cultural practices could reduce desiccation. The first one is mulching. Mulching reduces water loss and soil heaving, while allowing the roots a little more time to grow in the fall and take up the moisture. The second one is deep watering. It is recommended that trees should be watered deeply in the fall in preparation for the winter. Deep watering is recommended this year especially because we had less average rainfall compared to other years. It is also recommended to water trees deeply during the warm days in January, February, and March.

Freezing could result in bark splitting. During the winter or early spring, sharp temperature changes between day and night can freeze the water within the trunk causing it to explode or split open in a symptom referred to as " frost crack". Frost cracks are also called southwest injury since this is the side of the tree most often affected. Bark splitting can occur on the trunk of the trees as well as on branches. A related problem is "winter sunscald". This type of injury occurs when the sun warms the tree bark during the day and then the bark rapidly cools after sunset. This results in bark splitting or cracking.

Newly planted trees or young trees are more prone to trunk bark splitting. Splitting in young trees can be prevented by painting the trunk white with latex paint, wrapping it with tree wrap, or placing tree guards. If the guard is used, it should be loose enough to allow air to flow through the space between the stem and the guard. Many types of wrap are available in the market. In absence of commercial tree wrap or guard, wrapping trunks with burlap can also protect them from bark splitting. All wraps and guards should be removed in late spring to prevent girdling or insect damage. Newly planted trees should not be fertilized late in the growing season, as this may promote new growth and predispose the tissue to bark splitting. Bark splitting not only affects growth and development of the plant, but it also becomes the source of borer (insect) damage.

Breakage is usually caused by a combination of ice, snow, or wind. The weight of ice and snow can break even larger and stronger branches, especially if the wind further taxes the plant's physical strength. Another cause of breakage is improper or forceful removal of ice and snow. Frozen limbs are very brittle and snap easily if they bend the wrong way. Avoid physical removal of ice and snow from trees. Secondly, a proper pruning of trees could reduce the risk of breakage by ice and snow. Last but not least, select trees and varieties that are most suited to your area.

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TAXATION TIDBITS

New Rules Affecting Charitable Donations

Our income tax code got a few new wrinkles on August 17th, with the signing into law of "Pension Protection Act of 2006." This Act, in addition to pension tax law changes, contains some new provisions that will have ramifications for charitable donations.

First, the Act eliminates a tax deduction for used clothing and household items donated to charities **– unless the items are in "good" condition**. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, the Act fails to define what is to be considered good condition. This change is effective for donations after August 17.

The Act is more definitive regarding the substantiation of cash contributions. **Effective after August 17th, cash donations of any amount must be substantiated by a cancelled check, bank record or written documentation from the charity verifying the amount and date of the contribution.**

On a more positive note, the Act allows taxpayers to make tax-free distributions from their IRAs for charitable purposes. This provision is available through 2007 and has a $100,000 maximum annual limit.

Finally, another provision included in the Act, which will be of interest to some landowners, is the increase in annual charitable deduction limits for qualified conservation easements. For years 2006 and 2007 the deduction as a percentage of adjusted gross income is increased from 30 percent to 50 percent. For qualified farmers and ranchers the deduction is increased to 100 percent of adjusted gross income provided the property remains available for agricultural production.

By Parman Green, MU Extension Ag-Business Management Specialist
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Conservation Easement *What and Why*

A conservation easement is a legal transfer of right to use all or part of a property for a certain purpose. Since the transfer is of some but not all of the property rights, it is known as a transfer of "limited rights". Conservation easement is really a misnomer. The owner of land subject to a conservation easement is not required to implement conservation measures or institute practices to reduce pollution. Usually the owner gives up the right to develop, improve or modify his or her property and the buildings on it. The owner, however, keeps the right to sell, transfer ownership or give away the property. He or she may continue to live on the property, develop a portion of it excluded from the easement, and keep any subsurface mineral rights.

In a conservation easement, the limited rights are transferred from a private landowner to a nonprofit conservation organization or government agency. The organization or agency is given the right to enforce the easement. The public receives no right to enter the property.

Many conservation organizations and local governments are interested in conservation easements as a way to acquire "green space" in an area that is being developed quickly or which has special values to preserve. Landowners may have several reasons to favor a conservation easement. They may wish to ensure that property is left in an undeveloped state even after their death. Landowners also use qualified conservation easements for financial and estate planning purposes. The easements allow landowners to reduce fair market value of their property which can impact income, gift, estate, and property taxes.

Sources: www.for.msu.edu/extension/ExtDocs/easemnt.htm

www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/agecon/448-094/448-094.html

2006 FEEDING KANSAS CITY CONFERENCE ON

Direct Marketing

Growing Growers' 2006 'Feeding Kansas City Conference' on Saturday, December 2nd at the Kauffman Center in Kansas City aims to assist farmers in further developing their direct-marketing skills.

The program's day-long format includes 26 presentations and workshops on direct-marketing successes and ideas, offers ideas in overcoming local food sales hurdles, discussions on Department of Agriculture and Department of Health & Senior Services compliance issues, forums for food producers, chefs and grocery and restaurant sales and roundtable discussions addressing Kansas City's increasing demand for locally grown and processed food products.

The program features workshops led by area farmers that are finding numerous successes in direct-marketing, or marketing to end-consumers. Attendees will be free to participate in sessions throughout the day and will have the opportunity to taste local Missouri and Kansas foods during lunch. This program is a follow up to a 2004 Selling Kansas City Conference in which over 200 area farmers, chefs, grocers and distributors met to exchange ideas on how to strengthen their connections and open marketing avenues for locally raised food products.

"Growing Growers" is a program in the Kansas City area that trains farmers in local food production. The goal of the program is to increase the number and effectiveness of small farms that grow food for the Kansas City metro area. Growing Growers is a collaborative effort between the University of Missouri Extension, K-State Extension, the Kansas Rural Center and the Kansas City Food Circle.

For more information contact Crystal Weber at 816-876-2790 or webercd@missouri.edu or go to www.growinggrowers.org

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Drought-damaged *Corn*

Low test weight corn can result in storage problems. Initial moisture readings on low test weight corn can be unreliable for several reasons.

First, low test weight corn is soft, so only the surface dries. The internal portion remains wet, but evens out in storage to raise the overall moisture content. For example, low test weight corn put in storage at harvest at 14-15 percent moisture could be 16-17 percent by spring. Low test weight corn is more likely to take on moisture in storage. Low test weight corn is twice as likely to spoil as heavier corn at the same moisture. Softer corn breaks more easily when handled. Weekly bin checks will help identify problems before they become unmanageable. Sample grain bins from the top and bottom for moisture content and temperature to determine general condition of the grain. Record the results to monitor changes.

Management Strategies:

Keep corn with a test weight of 54 lb/bu or higher separate. Use test weight to determine how long you should keep corn. If grain test weight is less than 53 lb/bu, sell it first and if possible before summer. It will go out of condition quicker than heavier corn. If moisture content is 16 percent or higher, reduce the moisture level either with aeration or grain dryer.

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI Extension

Calendar of *Local Events*

FOR STATEWIDE EVENTS, CHECK THE WEB AT:
ACCESS.OUTREACH.MISSOURI.EDU/UOECALENDAR

November 2-4	2006 National Small Farm Expo at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Columbia
December 2	Feeding Kansas City Conference, at the Kauffman Center in Kansas City